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A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 1375 delivered on 1st February 1929.

(b) No.

(c) The Government are not aware that this is a fact; on the contrary, they have received petitions urging the early execution of the Vempad project which is a 'short crop' scheme for the irrigation of 4,500 acres and the ryots have offered to pay an inclusion fee of Rs. 25 per acre. That seems to indicate that they have no objection to the short crop scheme.

(d) The whole scheme of extension of irrigation in the delta is to be investigated by a special staff proposed to be appointed in April 1929 and the Government do not propose to pass any orders until the Special Officer's report is received.

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know whether the ryots applied to the Government for allowing them to raise a short crop, because even that was better than a dry crop?"

The hon. the President:—"That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"Sir, I am asking. . . ."

The hon. the President:—"Whether the ryots preferred the raising of a short crop or not, is asking for an opinion."

Expenditure on Original Works—Communications in the Agency.

* 1874 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amounts spent under the head of "Original Works—Communications" in Agency in each of the years 1920–21;

(b) how much of the above was spent in the Agencies of East Godavari, Vizagapatam and Ganjam, respectively;

(c) whether there is any scheme with regard to this matter and, if so, what that scheme is; and

(d) the probable cost of the whole scheme?

A.—(a) The expenditure on "Original Works—Communications" in the Agency are as follows:—

	RS.
1920–21	43,586
1921–22	1,55,575
1922–23	72,170
1923–24	78,289
1924–25	45,779
1925–26	72,599
1926–27	1,74,352
1927–28	2,79,365
1928–29 (revised estimate)	4,85,200

(b) Separate figures for each of the Agencies are not available.

(c) & (d) Yes. A scheme estimated to cost about 27·32 lakhs was approved by the Finance Committee in 1927. The scheme provides for the construction of roads and bridges in order to open up and develop the Agency tracts in Ganjam, Vizagapatam

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and East Godavari. The scheme was based on rough preliminary estimates. It is now being revised with reference to regular estimates and the relative importance of the respective works.

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know what Government mean by 'opening and development of Agency tracts'?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" It means the construction of roads and bridges so that the products there may be transported easily."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know what is the nature of the produce there?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Well, timber and any other marketable thing that grows there. You cannot get any machinery to that place without roads and bridges. If you want to start a mining industry there, you cannot take the machinery without these facilities. As it is, the place is not accessible. It is difficult to say what will be the exact nature of the future needs."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" Is not timber the chief product of the Agency tracts?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I believe it is at present."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" Is it not a fact that timber is carried from one place to another by floating it down the rivers?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" There are not rivers everywhere?"

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know whether it is a fact that foreign companies intend to exploit these Agency tracts?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I am not aware of any such proposal."

Public Service

Alleged collections by Rao Bahadur A. V. Govinda Menon for the Hitchcock Memorial.

*1875 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Rao Bahadur A. V. Govinda Menon, the present District Judge, North Malabar, assisted by Mr. Amoo Sahib, the then Assistant Superintendent of Police, secured large collections for the Hitchcock Memorial in 1927; and

(b) whether there is a rule that Government servants are not to take part in collecting subscriptions for public or private purposes?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware of any such activity on the part of the officers named. No representation on the subject has reached the Government.

(b) Except with the permission of the Government or of some authority empowered in this behalf by the Government, a Government servant is forbidden to take any part in the collection of money for any public or local purpose.